

FIRE CHIEF CAMPBELL MAKES LAME EXCUSE

Why were 100 fire hydrants in charge of the fire department allowed to remain untested for six months last summer, and was the delay owing to negligence on the part of the water department, the fire chief of the mayor?

This is the question which occupied the time of the fire committee of the executive board from 8 o'clock last night until midnight. The investigation was not finished but will be continued Saturday afternoon. Those who testified were all members of the water board, the fire chief, J. G. Shane and W. O. Haynes, agents for Hoge & Swift, who made their last delivery of hydrants May 2 of this year and did not receive their money until November 12, when the water board ordered a warrant drawn for the payment for a lot of 150 approved by the chief.

From evidence submitted to the board by these witnesses it is apparent that the chief of the fire department, though knowing that hydrants were being clamored for by property owners all over the city, not only did not manifest a desire to hasten the inspection of the hydrants, when he received the assistance from the water department and the contractors in the shape of men and apparatus to make the tests, but the hydrant inspector was not sent around to represent the fire department, the reason being given that he was "too valuable a man to be allowed to waste his time."

This man is W. J. Phillips, who has been accused of having an interest in a hydrant made in Portland, and of seeking to prevent the acceptance of the eastern product.

Agreed at Foundry.

Whether Phillips had any interest in the hydrant made by the Oregon Foundry or not is a significant fact brought out by the testimony of Superintendent Dodge that 50 hydrants ordered from the local firm at the time the contract for 150 were awarded to the eastern factory, were even brought over the river, but were approved at the foundry by Phillips. The water department was not asked to assist in any tests of these.

When Chief Campbell was called to testify he read a statement of the case as he saw it, from a formidable looking document containing data compiled by him. Most of the chief's assertions relate to the first 25 hydrants received from the east. Inquirer Isaac Swett declared that the investigation did not concern these, as the contractors had admitted that the lot was defective. The chief was asked to explain the delay in either accepting or rejecting the others, with special reference to a lot of 20 received February 15. The chief stated that 20 of these had been inspected and accepted.

This part of the chief's testimony is not contradicted, but he declared that he had no knowledge of the last lot of 100 hydrants delivered May 2. Superintendent Dodge and Messrs. Hart, Lamson, Allen and Dr. Rafferty, of the executive board, all swore that the fire chief had been notified of the arrival of this shipment as well as of all the rest and that each notification had always been regarded by them as meaning that the test should go on.

While disclaiming any knowledge of the hydrant shipment of May 2, the chief sought to throw the blame for not making any test after April 16, upon the mayor and the water department. He exhibited a letter telephoned to Hoge & Swift by Superintendent Campbell and taken down in writing by the stenographer of the company. This letter stated that the contractors were at fault and that further responsibility for testing hydrants was to be shifted to them, and that the chief had been ordered by Mayor Lane not to make any more tests. Superintendent Dodge was here called before the board again and he stated positively that he never gave the chief any such orders and that he had telephoned the letter shown by the chief at his request. Chief Campbell, the man who made the telephone and dictated the message.

Mayor Lane questioned Mr. Campbell at this point in the examination and finally forced the chief to admit that he had come to the mayor's office and told the mayor that Hoge & Swift were negligent and would not assist the fire department in making tests. The chief also admitted after a series of evasions that he claimed credit for some of the mayor were really ones suggested by himself and given verbally to him with the understanding on his part that the mayor that the representations made by the fire chief as to the negligence of the contractors were correct.

Shown in Bad Light.

The chief's statements were refuted at all important points of testimony up to this stage of the inquiry. He was made to appear in a still worse light by the testimony of W. O. Haynes and J. G. Shane. This was to the effect that it took Hydrant Inspector Phillips 20 minutes to inspect some 25 hydrants early in the spring and that Master Mechanic Stewart had tested 86 in the latter part of the summer in six days. P. E. Swett, one of the fire board members, asked Chief Campbell to explain this. The chief said that the reason Stewart had made better time than Phillips was that the hydrants had been worked over from March to June by employees of the contractors and that consequently each test could be expedited. Here the chief's statement was again contradicted by Mr. Haynes, who swore before the board that no work other than tightening up the joints had ever been done on any of the hydrants by his firm.

"Well, can you prove what I say by the men in the foundry," asserted Campbell. "They told me."

"Who told you?"

"S. M. Meers and his son who manage the shops."

"Will you have Mr. Meers and his son subpoenaed?" asked Mr. Haynes of the board.

The mayor directed the clerk to subpoena these witnesses at the final session of the board Saturday.

At this session W. J. Phillips will be asked to explain his connection if any with the local foundry. Members of the water board stated last night that it was their understanding that Phillips controlled a patent improvement on the Howe hydrant made by this company.

COLLEGE BOYS ENTERTAIN BIG AUDIENCE AT HELIG THEATRE

(By G. L. W.)

The Helig was well filled last night with college people, who always make up the personnel of a fine club's audience. Perhaps they are the only ones who can really appreciate a glee club, for they can read in between the lines, as it were, see the fun, the college spirit and loyalty that gives rise to these tours and that reflects itself in the ban-jos as they hear the merry music.

Annually at about this season the University of Oregon and Mandolin clubs visit Portland, enroute to other parts of the state to win laurels. And they are always given a warm welcome. This year Professor Glen, their conductor, has a splendid club, the voices well harmonized and excellently balanced, and the boys do their serious work with a good deal of artistic finish, more than you usually expect in a club that is out for the fun of it.

From the point of artistic merit probably their best work was done in their songs with Professor Glen, who was greeted with the same enthusiasm that his splendid baritone always commands. Mr. Glen has a rich, mellow voice of resonant tones and with lots of color. He responded to an encore with a fine accompaniment by the club and was called on to repeat the refrain.

Good shading was evident also in "Days of Oregon," a song written by Nelson, '08, and Robinson, '11, and sung with much feeling. It was the closing number of the program, but the Oregon people present, feeling a void, insisted on an encore of the "Oregon" song. There was real regret that the Oregon toast song, which usually introduces the program, was omitted.

this year. It is a fine spirited number that the university people are fond of hearing and should be on every program the club gives. "Old Man Noah" was a quick-tempo, nonsense song that caught the ear.

The Mandolin club showed itself efficient and it played several selections which were well received. The chief criticism that might be made was that their tempo was almost invariably too slow. Mandolins and banjos cannot bear the sustained tones of the violin tempo because they have no sustained tones. In their encores the effect was better. A mandolin quintet gave "The Glow Worm" in very good form.

The hit of the evening was the jolly jail bird song by Cooper, Nelson, Wood and Burke. Skits on subjects that appealed to the college people present were sung to the lockstep music and met with roars of laughter. The house shrieked and whooped with delight when the four entered reading the sporting page of a recent issue of a local paper and sang with feeling about the Thanksgiving football games with Multnomah the past 13 years, and finishing:

"For 10 years they beat us,
But we always came back fresh and
Now they want to quit,
They're not cold feet,
They're looking for a team to beat
Before they eat their turkey meat."

Ogden and Gieseler did some clever piano work, regaling some well known music. Ogden also accompanied the well in several songs. Victor La Voigt gave some clever impersonations in various tongues and especially his "dago" talk. Burke and Voigt together gave a scene entitled "Is He In?" and introduced a song, "The Hot Tamale Man," written by Nelson and Voigt.

The club easily found its way into favor with the audience and was given hearty encores. Perhaps there was a little lack of ginger—that essential quality for a glee club show. One expects a bunch of college men to be full of snap and always on the move. If there is nothing for them to do they are expected to find something. For it is the presence of continual fun and bubbling over spirits that makes a concert a success. Musically, as a glee club, it would be hard to improve upon them.



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